

REMARKS


The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 4 and 16-23 have been cancelled, while claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 4. In addition, claims 6-8 and 10 have each been made proper independent claims and include the limitations of previously presented claim 1 and claim 5.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 9, 11-13, 15-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,953,005 to Liu in view of U.S. Patent 6,600,874 to Fujita et al. The Examiner has further rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Fujita et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,691,494 to Sai et al. In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu in view of Fujita et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,648,628 to Ng et al. Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has found claims 4, 6-8, 10 and 14 allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above changes, Applicants believe that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections have been overcome.

Applicants believe that this application, containing claims 1-3, 5-15 and 24, is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 
Edward W. Goodman, Reg. 28,613
Attorney
Tel.: 914-333-9611